

Editors Notes

N. Loprire

I'm trying to get going at normal speed after the Christmas holidays and the brutal winter blast recently. I hope everyone out there had a joyous season and were not affected too badly by the wild cold snap. Maybe the bugs will be reduced this year after that big deep freeze.

Usually there is some intermittent spells of weather that allow for some winter steelhead fishing. Not so this year for two reasons. # 1 is that there was another weaker than normal run in both PA and Ohio. Second the flows were so erratic that planning to go was usually cancelled by temps, water flow, or both. I didn't get a chance to fish Conneaut but what reports I got were that I missed nothing. Let us hope for more fish and consistent, fishable weather in the spring.

It is time to get excited about the March 15th spring banquet and to make plans to attend. We plan to limit ticket sales so don't wait too long to purchase. See the article about the banquet for more details. Also plan to come to the "Winter Meeting" February 15th. See article for more details.

Remember that the newsletter is by email only or find it on our revised website (see below). If you receive it and know someone who doesn't have email, print a copy for them or let them know to have their kids, relatives or friends check out our website (www.neshannock-tu.org) to get the latest issue of the "Clearwater Gazette". There, they can print a copy of the newsletter for that individual.

IF YOU HAVE EMAIL and ARE NOT getting the newsletter **PLEASE** send your address to Tom Jochman TomJochman@sbcglobal.net and he will put you in the mailing database. Other board member emails are on our website.

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported a serious problem late this fall with a serious die off of fish. We were losing 5-6 fish a

day at one point and called the fisheries experts from the fish commission. Their biologist took samples of fish, water, and food and when all was analyzed the issue was traced to a mold in a bag of fish food. Once the problem was found, the nursery crew was able to get control of the situation. In total, we lost about 50 trout.

For more info on the nursery call Bill Stevenson at 724.342.0472, or email caryolnandbill@verizon.net, or Ken Tarczy buggartarz@yahoo.com at 724.662.5765. Call to arrange for a tour with your kids.

Our Revised Website

WWW.Neshannock-TU.org

N. Loprire

We are slowly getting the "bugs" out of our new website and are getting more up to date usable information uploaded. The 2013 Nov-Dec newsletter is available there and we will get this issue loaded by January 29-30th. Check it out and give us feedback if you can.

2014 Spring Banquet

Carol Jochman & Nick Loprire

The 36th annual banquet will be held next year on March 15th 2014 at the "Park Inn by Radisson" so mark it down. Tickets are available now so check the website for details or call a board member to order or stop by Neshannock Creek Fly shop in Volant to purchase. Adults \$37, couple \$70, under 12, \$14. Sponsor ticket \$90 (best deal with \$110 in Raffle tickets included). **CHECK our website to review and download individual or corporate sponsor information or call 330 544 2507 or 330 307 0884.**

Attention: We will be holding a special **GUN** Raffle. The winners don't need to be present when the tickets are drawn at the Banquet. Everyone and anyone are eligible to buy tickets. Help support our chapter and get and sell tickets if you can. Here are the details.

🕒 Three guns on display at ELITE Firearms:

- Remington ERP 1911 R1 .45 ACP
- Henry U.S. Survival .22 LR
- Marlin XT-17V .17 HMR

The guns will be handled by **Elite Firearms** on Rt 18 just north of Hermitage (across from Wal-Mart). They will be selling tickets there and of course we (board members) will have some and they will be available at the banquet. If you have questions, please contact Bill Melaro at bemelaro@roadrunner.com. **Stop in at Elite Firearms to check them out and buy tickets or contact any board member (phone #s on website)**. We will also have a custom carving by noted local wood carver **Robert Bellino**. He will be creating a beautiful Brook Trout carving for us. You will be impressed when you see his work. Our resident expert fly tier **Dr. Charles Moxley** will be there to help with your tying questions and is a great source of area fishing.

A **PIG ROAST** menu is featured at this year's banquet. Of course there will also be roasted chicken and sliced roast beef choices for those timid souls that can't handle the sight of a WHOLE pig being carved before your eyes. This will be served with:

- 🕒 Lentil salad with diced grilled vegetables in balsamic vinaigrette
- 🕒 Pasta tossed with brown butter sage
- 🕒 Dilled carrots
- 🕒 Garlic whipped redskin potatoes
- 🕒 Warm apple cobbler

For me, I say bring on the roast pork. It sounds fabulous to me. In the next I would get tickets ASAP for this event. Bring a friend (even if they don't fish) just to enjoy the food and prizes.

Come to The Winter Meeting 2014

Jeff Kremis

We will be holding a Winter Membership Meeting on **Saturday** February 15th at Munnell Run Farm in Mercer starting at 10:00am. The purpose of the meeting is to bring everyone up to date on all of the projects involving the chapter. We will be discussing the upcoming banquet, projects for the upcoming year, the Trout in the Classroom project, and other subjects of interest to the membership. We are also getting some interesting local speakers to cover some topics that we feel will be of interest to all outdoor enthusiasts. The tentative agenda will be;

10:00 - 10:30 - Introduction and Chapter News

10:30 - 11:00 - Hugh Clark - Shenango River Watchers and the Shenango Water Trail
11:00 - 11:15 - WCO Jeff Giardina - Information from the PFBC
11:15 - 11:45 - Jim Law - Nature Photography
11:45 - 12:00 - Wrap-up

Light refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Our trout nursery will also be open for tours that day and it's fascinating to see the trout and worth the trip. Munnell Run Farm is 1 mile North of Mercer on Route 58 West located behind the Avalon Springs Nursing Home. Call 330 544 2507 or 330 307 0884 for directions and more info.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update: **School Year 2013-2014** Reg McClelland

The 2013-14 Trout in the Classroom year has begun. The Brook Trout eggs were delivered sometime between November 5th and 7th. A couple of our teachers are getting to be old hands at this trout raising business. Rick Stevens at the Delahunty Middle School is now in his fourth year and Luke Rust from Mercer school district in his third year knows the routine. Jan Abernethy from East Middle School in Greenville, and Karl Rupert from the Farrell School District are both in their second year.

Everyone has reported to have received their eggs with viable egg numbers somewhere between 250 and 300. Losing fish during the course of the program is inevitable, but all the schools should have fish to release this spring

TIC T-shirts are now available for purchase. As a joint initiative by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, all proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to directly benefit the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, such as providing additional equipment to classrooms, funds for release days and field trips, educational materials, and more. The next shirt order will be submitted November 22, 2013. PATU is accepting T-shirt orders on a continuing basis. You can find out more

information on ordering a TIC T-shirt at PATU's website, <http://www.patrou.org/>.

This year PATU and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission shipped eggs to 246 schools across the state. If you do the math that's about 75,000 eggs to be packed, shipped and delivered in three days, with food. That's impressive.

Try "Different" Fishing

N. Lopshire

Just what is meant by "different" fishing? If you are like me and don't like crowds, then try fishing at less popular times, or seasons. It could mean fishing different places from the same old "I always catch them at the place where the stream goes around the bend by the farm house" or something like that. Different can be fishing with a different approach. Last year I vowed to give jig fishing a serious try for crappie. The results were surprising; at least a 5 to 1 catch rate on prespawn crappie with jigs vs. minnows. Don't be afraid to fly fish for crappie. When the spawn is on, a white streamer is absolutely deadly.

Different fishing can be something like night fishing for large trout (make sure it's legal in the stream you choose). If you plan to night fish, forget skinny tippets and smallish flies. Go with 2X and wet flies on #6 or even #2 hooks. Know the area you plan to fish so you can avoid tripping or snagging in the trees. The big fish always show after dark. The biggest trout I ever hooked was at night and he broke off 15 lb line that wrapped on my reel handle. I won't forget that night.

Maybe different is to take a child fishing for a day. I know it will be special for the child and it's something you will remember fondly. Make it fun and ice cream is a good way to end the trip.

The idea is to try something fresh and new, not the same exact approach every season. I fished Coolspring many years ago on a hot July morning. By buddy and I were fishing by 7:00am with beetles and ants. In one stretch of 100 yds I caught and released 9 nice browns. One was over 16 inches. By 9:30 it was done, but what a great morning. No one else was there to disturb the fish before us.

Think about how you will do some "different" fishing this year. I know you will be pleasantly surprised with the outcome. Send a pic to us to post on the website if you get a nice one. Good luck.

Be the Voice for Trout in Pennsylvania

Jim Kearney

The Pennsylvania General Assembly has returned to Harrisburg for the 2014 legislative session, and still, we need to remind them to protect fish and wildlife by opposing House Bill 1576 and Senate Bill 1047. Legislators have been hearing the sportsmen's voice on these bills - thank you for your efforts to date. As the new legislative session begins, we must continue to let them know just how important this issue to us - and to our natural resources. The vote in the House can come at any time and the Senate will begin hearings on the bill this month.

Now is the time to contact your legislator and let them know that it's crucial that Pennsylvania relies on science - not politics - to determine the future of its fish, wildlife and natural resources. Urge your Representative and Senator to protect coldwater resources and fishing opportunities by opposing these bills.

Call and write your Representative and Senator and tell him or her that...

① HB1576 & SB1047 will slow down-or halt-progress made to identify and designate Class A Wild Trout Waters, leaving Class A Wild Trout streams without deserved protection while Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) staffing and funding resources are diverted to fulfill additional bureaucratic duties associated with the state's regulatory review process. As the recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in the Act 13 litigation held, the Commonwealth has an affirmative constitutional duty to protect Pennsylvania's natural resources-including fish and wildlife-under Article I, Section 27 of the Commonwealth's Constitution (known as the Environmental Rights Amendment).

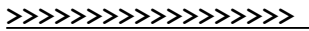
① Both the PFBC and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) currently

have rigorous and transparent processes for designating threatened and endangered species, and wild trout streams (in the case of PFBC), that considers public input. Data are obtained via well established, scientific sampling methods. Neither the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) nor the legislature have the scientific expertise to determine whether scientific methods employed to determine whether a species should be listed as threatened or endangered or whether a stream can be listed as wild trout water is sufficient to warrant protection.

- Ⓟ These bills will eliminate the independence of the PFBC and the PGC, by subjecting their actions to list wild trout waters and threatened and endangered species to the IRRC review process—a process that adds extra layers of bureaucracy, creates administrative inefficiencies, and will require a formal rule-making process for each listing—delaying protections for at-risk fish and wildlife. By doing so, the legislature could be risking federal funding and increasing the role of the federal government in conservation of Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife.

Save Those Cans but DON'T CRUSH!!

If you recycle aluminum cans and live in the Mercer area and want to help out TU, listen up. **FIRST**, do not crush the cans as there is a label on them that will return money for cans from certain states. Not sure how we reclaim that but please don't crush. Just take them in bags to the TU Trout Nursery on the Mercer County Conservation district grounds off Rt 58, just north of Mercer. For questions call Jim Mondok at 724 981 4513.



"Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, for your character is what you are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." - **Dale Carnegie**

Fishing makes us less the hostages to the horrors of making a living.